

Cambridge King Street Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers
summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the Cambridgeshire Weekly News. They are supplemented by some articles published in the Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library together with have detailed cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at bit.ly/CambsCollection.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check. There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

King Street Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

1898 08 08

At Cambridge court Detective sergeant Marsh told how he spent yesterday morning out in rain at Longstanton digging for gold. With a faithful allegiance to mystery and lucre the leisured classes of King Street and its bye-ways mustered to hear the recital of the experiences in the penny Klondike. The detective told how he searched for money in the garden of the prisoner's grandmother for an hour or so. At last he struck the money with the fork. Some was in matchbox, some in a cigarette case, and the gold in a purse

1899 06 13

Frederick Lawrence of the Belmont Cycle Works, King St, was summonsed for furiously driving a motor car in St Andrew's street, Cambridge. Defendant said he had had a deal of experience in motor-cars. They were going about 6 miles an hour. They were using the "Large" lever by which the car was unable to go more than 8 mph. The magistrate said that when there was considerable traffic in a street 6 mph constituted furious driving. A fine of £1 was imposed.

1900 04 23

A fishmonger of Mill Road, Cambridge, told the bankruptcy court he had started business in 1887 in King Street without any capital. He also traded as a vinegar dealer. He had done some betting and made a small "book". He had not kept accounts, had gambled, had traded when he knew he was insolvent, and had incurred debts when he had no prospect of paying them. It was a very unsatisfactory business altogether

1901 05 07

Sanguine people imagined that the rejoicing for the return of the South African Volunteers would pass off quietly. A parental Corporation had taken the wise precaution to secure materials for a fine bonfire on Midsummer Common to prevent the destruction of property. This time it was a plan doomed to partial failure. The fire was comparatively short-lived and undergraduates found a wealth of additional fuel in King Street where a wooden hoarding was dragged off to the Common and triumphantly flung upon the bonfire. Policemen stood guard over the bandstand on Christ's Pieces.

1901 10 30

A new Diocesan Lodge for the Girls' Friendly Society was opened at Hills Road, Cambridge. Several spacious apartments will be used as recreation and classrooms with lectures on nursing, home hygiene, needlework and astronomy and classes for musical drill and singing. There are rooms for girls being trained for domestic service & accommodation for lady boarders and visitors. The old Servants' Training Home, formerly situated in King Street has ceased to exist as a separate institution. It had been established for 80 years and more than 400 girls had passed through; it had also afforded a home to many strange and friendless girls.

1902 01 01

Last evening an employee of the New Theatre was passing along King Street, Cambridge, when he observed that fire had broken out on the ground floor of one of St Mary's Almshouses, which are situated on the west side of the street adjoining the Horse and Groom. He found the inmate of the room lying unconscious on the floor and the fire had taken a strong hold. The construction of the almshouses made the situation really dangerous for those who lived in the upper rooms, to which the only communication is by a narrow staircase. Fortunately 16 firemen with three hose carts were quickly upon the scene and the flames were soon got under

1902 06 03

Peace in South Africa produced strife in Cambridge – one of those fierce contests between the police and the united forces of town and gown which, combined with the destruction of property, constitutes

a “rag”. In King Street a large double gate was attacked as wood for a bonfire but a vigorous-looking dame appeared from the other side. Her only weapon was a duster, but such a formidable appearance did she present that the crowd melted away before her advance. Skirmishers went towards the Circus of Varieties to obtain a hoarding but this was well guarded and soon they were retracing their steps.

1904 03 22

Big Fire at ‘Belmont’. We do not think the meaning of this heading will be very clear to you: we have only put it there to attract your attention. What we really want to do is to let you know about the ‘Royal Belmont’ bicycles, tricycles, tradesmen’s carrier tricycles and trucks built to order on the premises. Belmont Cycle and Motor Works, King Street and Belmont Place, Cambridge - advert

1904 03 26

Messrs J. Carter Jonas sold by auction an important estate in King Street, Cambridge comprising the fully-licensed public house, the Millers Arms and adjoining dwelling house and outbuildings. The pub contains beer cellars and washhouse in the basement, a large room fitted with a kitchen range, bar parlour etc now in the occupation of Messrs Bailey & Tebbutt. The business premises at the rear include a paint shop, workshop and stables whilst the house has four bedrooms. When Sussex Street is widened King Street must become an important business thoroughfare. It was acquired by Mr Nockolds at £3,700

1904 04 21

Cambridge Paving Committee received a memorial from a number of residents in the Hobson Street area calling attention to the present state of the carriage-way. They directed the Surveyor to report the cost of paving the street with wood blocks, together with the portion of St Andrew’s Street from the tramway terminus. But Hobson Street was used by very few people; traffic was not half what it used to be and as the trams were likely to be electrified it would be better to wait. However a great amount of traffic came from Newmarket Road to the centre of town down King Street; very often there was a great block of traffic in Sussex Street because it was dangerous to go down Hobson Street where the pebbles were very uneven. Traffic went on dropping, and business went on dropping, simply because the street was so badly paved.

1904 09 14

The Official Receiver examining the affairs of a cycle dealer in King Street, Cambridge heard that he had begun business in 1895 and made a fair income until two years ago. The causes of his failure were bad trade, loss on a motor car and the illness of his wife and family. Since the receiving order had been made he had kept two men on the premises at work doing repairs to keep the business going. The New Hudson people had written asking what he would take for the whole thing and Mr Ison had also been after it. The Receiver said ‘A man who would work would do very well. Of course when a man stands outside for an admiring crowd to gaze at you cannot wonder ...’ Among his creditors were Macintosh and Sons, J.F. Amps, Enfield Cycle Co, The Cycle Exchange and H. Swainland

1906 03 08

The Beehive public house, Honey Hill, Cambridge had four rooms on the ground floor, including a parlour and a taproom for the use of customers. There was a front entrance from Honey Hill and a side entrance which also gave access to four cottages. It was therefore impossible for the police to maintain proper supervision as a constable would be seen going down there and people could slip out. There were 15 other public houses within 200 yards. Also: Golden Cross, Suffolk Hotel Grafton St, White Horse Coronation St, Sun in Sun St, Star in Castle St, Boot in King St 06 03 08c & d

1907 11 27

Stetchworth Dairy supplies 400 gallons to 18 colleges and 1,800 families daily from King Street depot – feature – 07 11 27, 27a

1908 02 25

The sale of the estate of Mr R.R. Rowe, late Borough Surveyor, includes a block of property mid-way between the station and the Post Office which would be suitable for the erection of a college, church, hotel or other business purposes. The residence known as Park House on Parkside, together with houses in Fitzroy Street, King Street and French's Road are also offered in the largest sale held in Cambridge for some long time. 08 02 25 & a & 29

1908 03 05

The Waggon and Horses on the corner of Burleigh Street and East already held a music licence. They had a commodious room capable of holding 50 people which they wished to use for public dancing once a week. But the Chief Constable said it was in an awkward part of Cambridge. A lot of people visited the house and it would not be well to offer further facilities. The licensee had his hands full in looking after the pub as it was at present. also Nags Head, Albion Row; Spotted Cow, Northampton St; Carpenter's Arms, King Street. 08 03 05 a & b

1909 09 03

'Charlie' Rowell, one of the greatest long-distance runners the world has ever seen, died at his residence in King Street. In the days when six-day races were popular Rowell was a name to conjure in two continents. He won races innumerable, won a cart-load of trophies and cash prizes to an enormous value. He paid several visits to America where on one occasions his opponents drugged his food. But he still finished second! CWN 09 09 03

1910 01

Mr Paget's supporters held a torchlight procession through Regent Street, Emmanuel Road, Fitzroy Street, King Street and St Andrew's Street. Torches of many kinds, some of an evidently hastily prepared character, were held aloft and Mr Paget rode in a carriage in the centre of the procession, which included about 30 horsemen who formed an imposing guard of honour. The Conservative candidate was accompanied by crowds of men, lads and even women and girls, bearing aloft torches, pink lights and Union Jacks, and blowing tin trumpets and whistles. CWN 10 01 14a

1910 02 11

Harry Cox of King Street was an old pugilist who learnt in a hard school where gloves were regarded as unnecessary. He started in a travelling fairground booth but when he visited Midsummer Fair decided to settle in Cambridge. He took part in many open-air fights without the sanction of the law which were witnessed by large numbers. Pupils from the University attended his rooms at the Green Lion in Short Street and later at the Royston Arms, Jesus Lane. "Professor Cox" also gave lessons at St John's and other colleges and several University champions passed through his hands including T. Milvain of Trinity Hall who was heavyweight champion of All England in 1868-69 and is now Judge Advocate General. 10 02 11c

1910 02 25

A hurricane with winds of 80 mph caused considerable damage. Hoardings in Belmont Place, King Street, belonging to the Billposting Company were unable to withstand the onslaught of the wind and fell while a large elm tree opposite Trinity Fellows' Garden was bespoiled of its top. At Ely Cathedral a window depicting St John the Baptist was damaged; the apostle's head was blown out but falling upon the lawn, the glass was not broken. At St Ives the wind blew down the home signal on the railway line and caught the gable end of Mr Holloway's music shop in Bridge Street, blowing off four yards of tiles. CWN 10 02 25a & b

1911 05 19

In a little side passage in King Street a barrel organ was draped with black and mauve as hansoms, taxis and growlers arrived in their dozens. The coffin was covered with crepe surmounted by cap and gown while plumes barely concealed the lines of an express delivery van in which sat the 'corpse' smartly dressed in grey suit and felt bowler. There were about 100 horses and motor vehicles in the

procession to the station where the tops of the railway carriages were filled with figures clad in varying garb from pyjamas and rowing shorts to mourning suits and dress suits. It was the most imposing mock funeral ever seen in Cambridge 11 05 19d & e

1912 06 28

William Thomas Kirkup was the pioneer of the modern scientific system of chimney-sweeping and his business extended to nearly all of the colleges, notably Trinity and St John's. He formerly resided at King Street, then at Bottisham before returning to Chesterton Road where he passed away at the age of 67. He was an active member of the old Volunteer force and served 22 years as a bandsman. 12 06 28b

1912 11 08

It was one of the noisiest 'rags' seen for some years, for the introduction of a variety of bomb-firework, which gives a report louder than a rifle shot, more than compensated for the fewer Varsity men than usual. The liveliest scene occurred in King Street where the crowd were attracted by the sight of the hoarding outside the partly-demolished Hobson Street Chapel. Instead they turned their attention array of woodwork in connection with the building of the new Wesleyan Chapel near Christ's Pieces, but this was strongly guarded by police. Another battle broke out in Grange Road where some 400 undergraduates damaged the fence around Mr Ebenezer Smith's garden. 12 11 08a & b

1912 12 20

The Mart in King Street has been constructed Mr J. Winship, the well-known auctioneer who has transformed what was originally a bare and ill-lighted bottling store into a fine salesroom. Soon 'The Mart' in 16-inch gold lettering will form a fitting crown to the red and gold colour scheme of the front of the premises. It is intended for the sale of furniture with a large skylight and powerful gas burners, adequate ventilation and heating. From the rostrum the auctioneer can easily see buyers and no serious bidder will fail to catch his eye 12 12 20b

1913 02 28

Mr J. Winship junior conducted his first furniture sale at The Mart, the splendid new auction rooms in King Street. They would conduct the business on business lines. They would have a sale when there was anything to sell and would not buy stuff to sell again. Furniture not sold would be stored and insured against fire free of cost and as the place was heated throughout by hot water pipes, the furniture would be kept in good condition. 13 02 28 CIP

1913 06 27

Skull unearthed King Street

1914 12 11

Soldiers billeted at Melbourne Place School would move to the hutments on Cherryhinton Road shortly but others have arrived and could take their place The Drill Hall in East Road and the Girls' County School are already overcrowded. It would mean that East Road and King Street Schools would no longer be required. The military would pay £400, about one-tenth of the cost of billeting. But billeting would relieve the hardship of lodging house keepers now fewer undergraduates were studying at university.

1920 03 10

Licensing sessions: refer East Road : Turnstile. George IV, Smith & Wheelwright Arms, King St: Boot; Gwydir St: Dewdrop; Newnham: Tally Ho; Chesterton: Indian Chief; Cherry Hinton Hopbine; Renew St Andrew's St: Queen's Arms – 20 03 10b

1920 07 10

Public houses considered for closure – Victoria, Barrington; Guilden Morden Pig & Whistle, Cherry Hinton Hopbine, Castle Camps George & Dragon, Linton Axe & Saw, King Street Boot, Chesterton High Street Indian Chief, Newnham Road Tally Ho, East Road Turnstile, Gwydir Street Dew Drop

1921 08 03

King Street murder of shopkeeper Alice Lawn murdered funeral – 21 08 03c;

1921 08 03

King Street murder: reports & trial – 21 08 03b, d,e 21 08 10a, b, e 21 08 24b,c,d 21 09 07c 21 09 14a,b 21 09 21a,b ; 21 10 19a,b,c; 21 10 19j. Photos – 21 08 03b, 21 08 17d , 21 10 19f, 21 10 26a. Suspect in court – 21 08 24a,21 09 21d

1921 10 26

King Street murder suspect found not guilty – 21 10 26c

1925 10 19

A comprehensive scheme for the provision of parking places in Cambridge will be laid before the Town Council who are empowered to authorise any part of a street as a parking place, though no charge can be made for parking cars in the public streets. Sites include Trumpington Street opposite the Leys School, Maids' Causeway, Lensfield Road, King Street & Jesus Lane. In Pound Hill it is proposed to allocate space for parking motor buses from St Neots and St Ives

1930 08 30

There are a five-seater, a quad, a triplet and a tandem bicycle to be found at the Belmont Cycle and Motor Works, King Street, Cambridge. They were formerly part of the fleet of pacing multicycles used by the famous Dunlop racing teams at the old Herne Hill track. Owing to the amount of motor traffic nowadays it is not advisable to ride the 'quint', a lengthy machine, but the others are still available for use. 30 08 30b & c

1930 10 16

Five miniature golf courses are now in operation in Cambridge. There are Messrs Grays in Sidney Street and the octagon course in King Street. The Premier Hall, Old Chesterton, has added midget golf to its other attractions and the Newmarket Road has the course in the club-room at 'The Bell'. Its holes represent hazards encountered during a trip from 'Trafalgar Square' to 'The Oval'. The latest 18-hole course at the Belle Vue Gardens is all-weather and open-air. It features a howitzer gun and a water jump and has been laid down by Capt Mullett who has constructed others in Vancouver and San Francisco. 30 10 16c

1931 02 20

William Carter joined the Cambridge Borough Police Force in 1867 and retired as Inspector in 1894. He had a vivid memory of the opening of the Corn Exchange in 1870 when undergraduates caused a disturbance and six were arrested. At their trial a mob gathered and dashed to King Street, the residence of the Mayor, John Death. But, headed by Carter, the police got there first and shut the gates. Missiles of all kinds were thrown and the fighting continued for some hours. Apart from a battered and torn helmet, Mr Carter was not hurt. 31 02 20j

1931 04 03

William James Ison started as a cycle dealer in Chesterton Road in 1897; his business prospered and at one time he had four shops selling and repairing cycles. He also put one of his own machines on the market. The 'New Chesterton' has become deservedly popular and a special racing model won over 100 prizes in 1908. His late wife was sister of Fred Lawrence of the Belmont Cycle Works in King Street. 31 04 03f

1931 12 18

King Street market goose – photo – 31 12 18I

1932 01 21

King Street shoe repairer – John Motley – bankruptcy – 32 01 21a

1932 03 31

Grand Opening. W.H. Peak's new furniture showrooms, King Street. Our premises have been converted into four spacious floors exhibiting the most remarkable values in furniture, carpets and linoleum that has ever been offered in Cambridge. We have built up our business by selling only reliable goods. If you cannot pay a visit, we shall be pleased to send you our catalogue. – Advert. 32 03 31b

1932 12 09

A Cambridge publican told the bankruptcy court he had taken the Horse and Groom in King Street in October 1925 and made a profit until the General Strike when trade was hit throughout the country. He borrowed money and in May 1930 took the Rose Hotel, Rose Crescent. But the increase in beer by a penny a pint hit sales so he left and moved to a pub in Maidstone. 32 12 09b & c

1933 05 26

Proposals to set back the line of buildings in Sidney Street would leave only two small properties jutting out between Woolworth's and the corner. There was no room for people to move on the pavement and it would be a great improvement. But Mrs Rackham said it was unreasonable to pay so much money: the owners demanded compensation that equated to nearly half a million pounds an acre. This was not new: when a building line was prescribed in King Street, property which formerly sold at £1,500 immediately fetched £2,000. 33 05 26 f & g

1934 03 02

The tenant of the Rhadeund public house in King Street had been there since 1893 but his wife had died and trade had gone down. There were six other pubs within 300 yards, three belonging to Lacons, two to Greene King and one to Mr Dale. A good many of the customers were getting on in years and some had fallen away. But it served a useful purpose socially for a certain class of people and should be kept open, magistrates were told. 34 03 02

1934 07 24

A good deal of controversy has been aroused amongst local anglers by a fish which was caught in the Cam by Mr F.W. Arnold. It is rather like a roach except that the colour is golden-red, similar to a carp. Some say it is a red mullet or a golden orfe. Mr Agger of the fishing depot in King Street is unable to identify it, nor are anglers with 40 years' experience. It is on show at Mr Agger's and will finally be pickled. 34 07 24

1935 04 29

Cambridge Salvation Army's earliest days, 50 years ago were recalled by the Mayor, Ald Ralph Starr. He told how a band from Liverpool had come to give them a send-off: "I remember seeing them go down King Street, a singing multitude of people thronging around the band, who were trying to play, and some lads and lasses marching behind. The crowd were not only hustling and pushing them but dealing out blows to those who were playing. Several bandsmen had blood on their faces, but they did not retaliate. It was that which affected me most", he said. 35 04 29

1935 11 09

The licensee of the Wagon and Horses at Cottenham the court that a man planning to establish a branch the 'National Smallholders' Society' in the village had stayed several nights but had not settled the bill. A village dairyman said he'd paid five shillings to join the Society but had heard nothing more and did not receive a book of rules. Altogether 362 people had subscribed. Police saw a poster headed "National Smallholders' Society" in the window of a house in King Street, Cambridge and arrested the occupant. He was convicted for obtaining money by false pretences 35 11 09

1935 12 19

King Street Christmas poultry market picture – 35 12 19

1936 04 09

Important Notice. Peak's furnishers, King Street, Cambridge have built up the name and reputation for selling reliable goods. We give an expert furnishing service with 150 bedroom, dining and drawing room suites always on show. Don't be misled. We have no branch shop and no connection with any other furniture store. – Advert 36 04 09b

1935 05 09

Did you see this Holliman's furniture van in your district? It was delivering guaranteed furniture that had been bought for cash. Do be wise and furnish for cash. You will then know that the home is your own. Hollimans', the firm that guarantees you satisfaction. The King Street Furniture Galleries, Cambridge - Advert 36 05 09

1936 08 29

'Sunnyfields' Estate at Histon features the latest type of labour saving houses built by F.L. Unwin and furnished by H.W. Peak of King Street Cambridge. 36 08 29b

1937 01 30

Peaks Furnishers of King Street was commenced in 1924 by Mr W.H. Peak and by dealing in reliable goods, together with a sound service, he has rapidly built up business. The premises have been extended and improved from time to time and a very large floor space is now devoted to the display of floor coverings and furniture. Consistent advertising in the CDN for a number of years has helped considerably to make this firm so widely known. 37 01 30f

1937 09 25

Jesus Lane Sunday School was set up in 1827, later moving to King Street where many local children were taught religion by undergraduates who rose to positions of eminence in the church. A new large school was erected in Paradise Street in 1868. But times change. After the war many families have moved further out so now they have sold that building and erected a new hall in Brooks Road which will also serve as a temporary church until a new one can be built. All children between eight and 15 are invited 37 09 25

1938 08 27

Whenever you see Hollimans' vans they are delivering 'paid-for' furniture to the homes of contented and satisfied customers. You have the choice of the largest selection of guaranteed furniture at keen prices and save the additional 'easy-payment' charges. Save money and enjoy the additional prestige when our vans deliver the goods to your home: the neighbours will be certain you have not bought on convenient terms. Linoleums and carpets fitted free. Holliman's 'Cash Only' Furnishers, 71 King Street – Advert. 38 08 27a

1938 12 02

The King Street Riding School is the largest and most up-to-date indoor riding school in the country. The Principal (Capt E. Cooper), as an instructor and horseman ranks second to none, having the reputation of being one of the finest riding masters to serve in the British Army. The long list of successes gained by his pupils in all branches of equitation during his thirty years at King Street testify to his outstanding ability as a Riding Master. 38 12 02a

1942 02 24

Leys laundry fire King Street – 42 02 24a

1942 03 06

Richard Welcher, carried on business at King Street in name of Allen & Welcher, dies – 42 03 06

1945 12 11

Senior police officers A.E. Lilley and Inspector Jacob retire, memories of CID work. King St murder and Sinn Fein arrest – 45 12 11

1951 02 09

The Queen and Princess Margaret came to Cambridge on a private visit to their favourite local antique shop. They came by road from Sandringham and the Royal car was half-an-hour later than expected. It was held up for five minutes in a traffic jam in King Street. The sight of uniformed and plain clothed police in the vicinity of Mr Stanley Woolston's shop drew a crowd to the spot and there were well over a hundred people-mostly women with shopping baskets – waiting when the Royal car drew into the kerb.

1951 03 27

Thieves smashed a shop window of G.D. Pickering, watchmaker and jeweller of King Street, Cambridge, in the early hours of the morning, but from a window display of £200 worth of goods all they took were two ladies' watches, valued together at £9. The robbery is believed to have taken place at 2.30 am because neighbours heard the breaking of glass and a car revving up quickly. A car starting handle was left behind, and it is thought that this was thrown at the window.

1952 01 01

The first Provincial 4½ hours' night T.V. service for viewers if their sets go wrong is being operated by Messrs H.W. Peak Ltd., King Street, Cambridge. To the 100 feet aerial above the firm's premises the Fire Service will tomorrow bracket a V.H.F. transmitted aerial for radio contact with their engineers. A phone call will reach an operator who will contact by radio one of the firm's two servicing engineers who will be at home with a van (and a spare T.V. set) at the ready. He will go to the caller's home. Mr John Peak said: "I feel a T.V. night service is essential, as it is mainly used for evening viewing, when it is annoying for the public to find their set has a fault and they are unable to get in touch with anybody to put it right"

1952 01 07

How to put an aerial above your roof in three not-so-easy stages. 1: call the Fire Brigade. 2: Ask the Chief Fire Officer (Mr Tom Knowles) to fire a rocket attached to a rope over a T.V. aerial crossbar. 3: Use a bow and arrow. All three methods were used in Cambridge by Mr John Peak of the King Street T.V. and furniture dealers. He wanted to bracket a V.H.F. aerial to the firm's existing aerial in connection with their T.V. night service. But the Fire brigade's turntable ladder was a foot short & the rocket missed its mark. Then an arrow from the bow of John Ridgeon (leader of the Cambridge Bowmen) went over the top. Attached to it was the rope with the new aerial which was then hauled up.

1952 10 11

Seven thousand Cambridge television viewers are promised almost perfect reception if official sanction is received for a new T.V. broadcasting station to open early in the New Year. The original BBC signal will be picked up on a 50-foot-high aerial on the "Gogs" and beamed down on the city. John Peak, manager of Peak's King Street television service, the sponsors of the scheme said: "Viewers will receive an almost unmarred signal well in time for the Coronation". The large "H" aerial now on chimney-pots would no longer be necessary; instead a small rod can be hung from the bedroom window.

1954 03 18

The proposed arrangements for an alternative television programme will not give a satisfactory signal in the Cambridge area. Multi channel convertors now being incorporated in some makes of set may be outdated and unserviceable when the Cambridge viewer wants to use them. Our advice is to have the convertor fitted when – and only when – Cambridge comes within the range of the proposed new stations. To buy a set with a convertor at present means paying 5-7 guineas more for what is, to the Cambridge viewer, a useless article. – H.W. Peak, Radio & Television Dept, King Street – advert.

1955 07 27

The Medical Officer for Cambridge says houses in Trinity Place together with warehouses to the rear of King Street are unfit for human habitation; they are dangerous and injurious to the health of the inhabitants & should be demolished. People living there will be asked to quit within two months with the Council finding alternative accommodation. 55 07 27

1955 09 02

In opening their enormous new showrooms in King Street Cambridge the firm of H.W. Peak have passed another milestone. Everything for furnishing a home is here in astonishing array. Apart from furniture there is electrical equipment such as vacuum cleaners and washing machines together with televisions and Hi-Fi sound equipment. They started just under 50 years ago selling second-hand furniture and opened a large branch at King's Lynn in 1937. 55 09 02b

1959 09 03

Fireworks and flying saucers celebrated the opening of the new showrooms of H.W. Peak in King Street, Cambridge. Giant rockets were released from the roof of the floodlit and gaily decorated building and the city was 'bombed' with balloons released from aircraft. Each contained a numbered card and winners will share in the distribution of £200 worth of furniture. 55 09 03

1955 10 15

Two brothers, both of whom carry on house furnishing business in Cambridge, brought their fourth High Court action against each other. A woman customer had gone to buy a refrigerator, saw a shop named Peak's in King Street and assumed it was the same as Peak's Furnishers of Fitzroy Street where she had an account. It was delivered to her house but then she went to Fitzroy Street to pay for it. The judge said this was a case of the utmost triviality and it was surprising it had not happened many times before. 55 10 15

1956 07 20

Since the Queen had her ears pierced there has been a tremendous increase in the wearing of earrings. George Pickering of King Street Cambridge has been piercing ears for nine years. His clients have ranged from three years old to 85, although there are not as many tiny children as there used to be. Just recently he had a queue of girls from a Haverhill factory. He started his watch repair and jewellery business after the war in a little shop where the Home Guard used to clean their rifles. 56 07 20a

1956 10 16

Councillors say that multi-storey car parks should be provided at Lion Yard, Saxon Street, Park Street and New Square and 170 cars should be parked on the site of the existing police flats at Parkside. But traffic congestion in Cambridge has become so acute that 'No Waiting' restrictions should be imposed in the central area and King Street made one-way. 56 10 16a

1956 11 02

W. Holliman and Sons, the well-known Cambridge firm of removal contractors have again chosen a Morris vehicle for their fleet of pantechnicons. Every vehicle since 1926 has been a Morris, proof of their faith in this make. They are also house furnishers and their showrooms, the King Street Furniture Galleries, were the first 'Walk Round Showrooms' in Cambridge, dating back to 1923 when they moved from Mill Road. 56 11 02a

1958 02 01

Harry Ingrey was the first monotype operator in Cambridge in 1904 and apart from the Great War has been at the keyboard ever since. In the early years people from the University Press would call into the Cambridge Express Printing Works in King Street to see things new in the printing line.

Harry recalls the pleasure of printing 'Granta' and its undergraduate editors – "everything always went nice and smooth with them", he says. 58 02 01b

1958 09 27

Parking facilities in Cambridge were inadequate, said the Chief Constable. With more than 600 vehicles passing over Magdalene Bridge each hour, Park Street was a convenient site for a car park. Saxon Street park had been finished last week, work on King Street had not started and the Parkside car park was only a small one. Park Street was the one that should have first priority as a surface and multi-deck car park. But a thatched house in Clement Street built about 1700 should not be destroyed by 'this cement desert'. 58 09 27 b c d

1958 11 29

Ernest Hilton art gallery, King Street – 58 11 29

1959 10 24

Gaming machine in Royal Arms, King St – 59 10 24c

1960 01 21

City councillors decided to drop proposals to use Butts Green as a car park for two years - even with the Lion Yard car park finished and new car parks in King Street and Park Street, there would still not be enough parking and it would never be reinstated. The income would never meet expenditure. Eventually Cambridge would have a city centre park charging about one shilling an hour. If Butt Green was to be charged at sixpence nobody would use Lion Yard and the council would be sabotaging their own scheme. 60 01 21

1963 03 07

A 25-hour non-stop jive session at The Dorothy ballroom was won by The Rebels, a team of jivers from the Corner House Café in King Street. The American team from Alconbury were the first to crack, followed by the Corpus Christi team and Daddy's Nite Club. At the end of the session only three members of these teams were on their feet. Back at the Corner House Café the Rebels' supporters took the news of their triumph quietly. In their leather jacket and jeans they talked over cups of coffee. But the juke box was silent by order of Magistrates. Two of the Rebels, Colin Knight and Graham Jones used the session as a practice for a 25-mile cycle sprint race. 60 03 07

1960 04 01

George Pickering the King Street jeweller took up ear-piercing as a sideline eight years ago. Since then he has pierced the lobes of more than 7,000 pairs of ears – about 20 'patients' a week. Girls come in groups from Haverhill, Ely, Huntingdon and Northampton and often queue up to go behind the screens for the three-and-a-half minute procedure which will turn them into women capable of wearing ear-rings. Very few of them faint. He has also had a few boy customers who just want the left ear pierced. 60 04 01

1961 04 28

City councillors decided to go ahead with a plan for a multi-deck car park with shops and filling station on the ground floor, in King Street. Steps will be taken to acquire the land from Jesus College by compulsory purchase if necessary. Congestion in the city centre is getting near to desperate: eventually parking meters would be needed and there had to be somewhere for cars to go. But it would commit the council to building a multi-deck car park when there were no details of the financial implications, Councillor Warren warned. 61 04 28c

1961 06 30

The proposed King Street car park would have to earn three shillings and three pence per car space per day. But apart from Saturdays the car park would not be filled by members of the public. The Lion Yard only took three shillings – though councillors and employees parked there free. However they

would also put in parking meters and with car parking meters there would be no worries about the multi-storey car park. But a shop and filling station were an important part of the project 61 06 30a

1962 02 20

The city council want a three-storey car park in King Street, between Malcolm Street and Manor Street. There would be space for 260 cars together with a filling station and a maximum of nine shops. It would form part of the pattern of perimeter car parks with another in Park Street. There would be an inner 'control zone' and an outer area for car parking administered by meters. This would accommodate over 400 more vehicles and relieve congestion. Motorists were reluctant to use parks away from the city centre as they wanted to get as near as possible to their places of work, an Inquiry was told. 62 02 20 & a 62 03 22a

1962 09 05

Bulldozers and heavy earth-moving machinery have been followed by a fleet of lorries as clearance work starts on the site of the new multi-deck car park in Park Street. It should be completed within nine months and will form an integral part of the new parking meter system for which the City Council is to seek Ministry approval. Councillors are still waiting a decision on their earlier application for another multi-storey car park about 200 yards away in King Street 62 09 05

1962 12 22

King Street poultry mart held its last Christmas sale. It has existed for nearly 50 years and now the auctioneer Claude Kirkup and clerk, Alfred Harding will retire. Mr Kirkup, a well-known figure, has dealt with about 1,000 chickens, turkeys and geese this week alone. He started in the mart in 1918 and was joined by Mr Harding in 1922. The site was purchased recently by Jesus College 62 12 22

1963 03 21

Down Your Street article by Erica Dimock on King Street – 63 03 21 [DYS cut]

1963 04 03

The new car park at the rear of Queen Anne Terrace has now been completed and is open for public use, free of charge. It adjoins the car park at the new swimming pool which can accommodate 67 cars and has been constructed as part of the council's policy for traffic control in anticipation of the Minister's approval of the parking meter scheme. The multi-storey car park in Park Street should be in use by the middle of the year and a decision is awaited on an application for another in King Street 63 04 03

1963 05 01

King Street car park approval delayed, plans for controlled parking outlined – 63 05 01

1963 05 15

The Government rejected the City Council's scheme to build a multi-storey car park together with shops and a petrol filling station on land near the Malcolm Street junction at King Street. The site is obscurely located in a residential area and the roads leading to it are narrow, awkward and unsatisfactory. It would cause serious detriment to adjoining properties and initiate a substantial commercial encroachment to the detriment of the special qualities of the cultural and central area of the city. An alternative site should be found, the Minister says 63 05 15, 63 05 11

1965 05 27

Metals Research Ltd to close sites at King Street and Milton and open at Melbourn. The firm, which has a world lead in the production of metal single crystals was formed in 1957 and now employs 120 workers – 65 05 27

1965 06 29

Jesus College announce send major redevelopment scheme within week of Lion Yard plans, this one for King Street – 65 06 29, 29a

1965 09 24

Jesus College proposals for King Street development – model – 65 09 24

1966 04 11

University authorities ban King Street run; started 40 years ago – 66 04 11a; does not take place 66 04 21c; takes place in defiance of proctors – 66 04 28c

1966 07 29

City planner Gordon Logie reveals six possible scheme for a new Cambridge shopping centre; one would build on part of Christ's Pieces and extend grass over the King St area – 66 07 29, a, b

1967 05 25

King Street demolition for Jesus College redevelopment – photo – 67 05 25a

1969 07 04

P.O. Reed, hairdresser started 53 Trumpington St, 1946 to Mill Road, then King St etc – history – 69 07 04

1971 01 07

King Street architecture criticism – 71 01 07a

1971 09 04

King Street new buildings ruin environment, Architectural Review claims – 71 09 04

1972 10 02

John Nicholson is a tall, solemn, ranging character with a Biblical appearance. Currently he runs two shops in Cambridge. Neither of them makes a profit. Before that he published an "alternative" newspaper "Cambridge Voice", a paper which ran to 16 issues. After a skirmish with "The Shilling Paper" he felt that a University element were against him. His two shops are the King Street Market and Cockayne, Portland Place, New Square. It's an unusual shop selling a range of science fiction and occult books, "underground" periodicals, American comic books and all sorts of pamphlets

1975 04 28

The King Street run or the King Street pint to pint is a Cambridge drinking tradition. It means drinking eight pints of beer in two hours. In the old days King Street had enough ale houses for the Run to be held along it, but now the organisers have to plan the route incorporating public houses elsewhere. The run last year ended at The Zebra in Newmarket Road but licensee Mrs M. Warren won't be allowing it again. Last year youths who vomited in Fair Street outside the Hopbine bought a ban there on all future runs.

1977 08 03

Cambridge pop groups are to be given a chance to make their names in the music industry. Lee Wood, the owner of "Remember Those Oldies" record shop in King Street has just launched his own record label for lively local bands. Having acquired the 16-track recording facilities at Spaceward Studios he is looking for local groups to promote on his new label entitled "RAW" and has plans to produce an LP of all the Cambridge groups over the last ten years. One of the first bands to be recorded are punk-rockers The Users, whose single "Sick of You" has already sold 10,000 copies.

1977 12 15

It pays to discover the shops in King Street, Cambridge. There are three antiques shops and Andrew McCulloch's and Hi-Fi for Pleasure do a wide range of sound equipment. For records there is a choice

between the instant-nostalgia shop, Remember Those Oldies, who rather oddly sell punk records, and Garon Records – more conventional with a good selection of bargain-price discs. The Cambridgeshire Health and Beauty Salon offers a facial at £3.95, sauna at £2 or a manicure at £1.50 and at Norman and Son you can still buy old-fashioned woolly long-johns.

1978 01 03

A tornado cut a two-mile swathe through Newmarket. Roofs were ripped off buildings, windows smashed and cars overturned. Every window in the railway station signal box was smashed. Chief Inspector Trevor Hewitt of Newmarket police said: "It's a disaster area. It was just a freak storm and only lasted a couple of minutes. The damage is appalling. Roofs have caved in, windows have been smashed and cars overturned". In Cambridge the wind lifted the roof from a house in King Street.

1978 02 13

I went for a pub-crawl the other night – without moving from my 'local'. Warmed by two or three pints of good beer I decided to call at The Criterion in Market Passage, which used to be a popular Saturday night pub, the Bun Shop just off Downing Street and the Volunteer in Green Street before tramping on to the Earl Grey in King Street and the Duke of Cambridge in Short Street. Every one of these pubs had its own special 'character'. The journey took only a few minutes but the best part of 15 years – during which time all of them have closed.

1978 10 13

The Varsity Handbook's pub guide includes a bitter attack on several Cambridge pubs. At The Horse and Groom, King Street it claims "the beer is foul, the bar dirty and the landlord unpleasant". The Pickerel, Magdalene Street, fares little better: "Foul place, selling foul beer and swamped by inhabitants of a certain nearby college". Whitbread pubs in particular come in for a bad time: "Why does Whitbread charge so much money for their freezing cold fizzy beer", it asks. But it likes the Baker's Arms, East Road - "friendly and near a fish and chip shop"

1980 04 10

Major alterations have been made to the Cambridge Arms in King Street ensuring the conservation of the old Cambridge Brewery building which has stood semi-derelict since brewing ceased in 1925. It was established by George Scales in 1866 and then supplied 13 public houses. The new Scales Bar extends beneath the old brewing floor and features brick arches which supports the heavy coppers and chimney on the upper level. Various items of brewing equipment that were removed for safe keeping have now been returned and are displayed. 80 04 10

1980 09 24

There are twice as many bicycles in Cambridge than in other towns, but there are three times as many bike shops. The proprietor of University Cycles of King Street says the overheads are high but with hard work it is possible to make a comfortable living. Second-hand bike sales peak at the start of a university term and winter is a good time for repairs as with ice and snow there are frequent breakages. But Cedar Cycles of Cottenham say people travel out to them because they are the cheapest in the area. 80 09 24b-c

1981 05 11

Five years ago the problem of housing single people in Cambridge was desperate. But now 20 local housing associations like Granta and King Street have added hundreds of rooms. The Argyle Street Housing Co-operative is different: half the places are earmarked for CCAT students and the rest will go to single people. Members will run the properties themselves, doing some of the maintenance. Living near a railway line is not everyone's idea of heaven but it does have its advantages: the rents will be around £15 a week. 81 05 11

1982 10 05

Newly-modernised almshouses in King Street were re-opened by Baroness David. They were built in 1880 to replace the original houses dating back to 1647 which had decayed beyond repair. The new

houses for single retired women have modern kitchens, bathrooms and central heating. Already they have six tenants. 82 10 05a

1983 06 09

No-one is likely to support a local post office out of charity. Business has been falling off in recent years, not helped by Government encouragement to pay many social security benefits monthly instead of weekly and to pay direct into a bank account. Some sub-postmasters have given up because their income has dropped by £1,000 a year but so far somebody else has been persuaded to take on the business. Now a 'rationalisation' programme is being carried out. First to be hit is the King Street post office which is likely to close, just as the street has a new lease of life with new shops and flats. 83 06 09 p11

1983 07 13

Hundreds of Cambridge residents have lost their long battle to save the sub-post office in King Street from closure. Despite massive protests the Head Postmaster has decided it must shut when the owners retire. Now the council may consider buying the building in the hope they can keep it open. Mr & Mrs Mansfield have given a first class personal service for 30 years which would be difficult to match even if the post office were to remain. 83 07 13 p7

1983 08 04

Seventeen flats and maisonettes being built as part of the Grafton Centre are now on the market. The flats in Fitzroy Street have a bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom & private rooftop terraced areas and sell for £29,500. The maisonettes are on two floors and have two bedrooms, they sell for £42,000. The scheme also includes 22 one-bedroomed flats in Christchurch Street which will be available on a share-ownership basis through the King Street Housing Society. Most have been allocated already. 83 08 04 p12

1983 08 20

Dozens of Cambridge residents gathered outside King Street Post Office to protest against its closure. It was the last day of business for the owners, Tom and Ivy Mansfield who are retiring after 30 happy years. The decision to close was taken despite vigorous opposition from the city council. "They haven't given a thought to the inconvenience it will cause people", say protestors, but the Head Postmaster says there are too many post offices in Cambridge. 83 08 20 p3

1983 08 22

One of the last letters to be postmarked by the King Street Post Office, which closed despite public protest, has been kept as a memento. The registered letter was sent to the News by John Mellanby, a city tourist guide, as a souvenir of the closure. He recorded the dates the post office opened and closed, 1898-1983 and blames MP Robert Rhodes James for not supporting the fight. 83 08 22 p7

1984 08 28

Furious shopkeepers in Chesterton Road are banding together to fight plans to turn a derelict house into a hostel for the homeless. They claim it will be a home for drunks who will make life unbearable for people living in the area. The sub-postmaster says drug addicts and drunks are already a problem – on Thursday afternoons half the customers are drunk when they come in for their Giro. But the King Street Housing Association says it will be a refuge for the homeless with full supervision and not a place for alcoholics. 84 08 28 p5

1984 11 02

Own Roe, the St Andrew's Street antiques dealer, is the latest in a line of specialist private shops owners to be driven out of the centre of Cambridge by massive rent rises. His great-grandfather started in business at the corner of Christ's Lane in 1822 but that shop was pulled down to make way for Bradwell's Court in the 1960s. Recently E.J. Pigott (tools) left Sussex Street after nearly 50 years

and now the Granta Wool Shop is concerned about a rent review. Model Mania in King Street has also moved. 84 11 02 p8

1984 11 30

The Champion of the Thames pub in King Street has just been completely refurbished with an Edwardian atmosphere featuring reinstated oak panelling matched up with new boarding bars, ceilings and floors. The familiar 'Champion' emblem of a sculler has been superbly etched on the new glass but the Landlord would like to know something more about him so that he can add to a selection of old rowing and sculling prints which now adorn the walls. He thinks the name may have come from either a lodger or resident who was a Thames sculling champion. 84 11 30c

1985 10 10

Wrights Ski Chalet shop opens King Street – 85 10 10b & c

1986 05 27

Thirty novels reflecting life in Cambridge over the past 75 years have been given to the Cambridgeshire Collection. They are the lifetime's work of Jack Overhill. Only three books have been published: 'Romantic Youth', a townsman's view of the university, 'The Miller of Trumpington' and 'The Snob' telling of life in Gothic Street. Two volumes that describe life in King Street in the 1930s came close to becoming a television serial in 1973. Most were written at the end of a busy day, in some cases on a typewriter balanced on his knees in an air-raid shelter. "Every word in them is true. I have remembered all that happened in my life. Now it torments me", says Jack 86 05 27 b & c

1989 12 12

Sir Arthur Marshall to retire – profile. His father set up a de luxe car hire service in Brunswick Terrace in 1909, opening garages in King Street and Jesus Lane. In 1912 carried petrol to Beta II airship which landed in grounds Jesus College. Bought first aircraft at Fowlmere in 1919. Got pilot's licence 1929 & bought a Gipsy Moth. Opened landing field behind house in Newmarket Road – 89 12 12b, c